1	2	3	4	5
16.	Jugadh	1050	472	578
17.	K' Bhuj	865	471	394
18.	Rajkot	808	446	362
19.	Surendranagar	648	309	339
	Total	18028	8079	9949

[English]

Allotment of Accommodations

2927. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is great corruption in Estate Office of Northern Railway as the Railway accommodation is being allotted to the staff on out of turn basis on flimsy grounds;

(b) if so whether it is also a fact that some officials of Northern Railway who are working in Railway Board have not yet vacated their accommodation in Delhi;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of quarters allotted to the staff on out of turn basis during 1995 and 1996 in Delhi; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To avoid inconvenience, officers on transfer from Northern Railway to Railway Board and vice versa, are being permitted to retain their accommodation on mutual exchange/pool adjustment basis. Mutual exchange/pool transfer of Central houses with Railway Board/Northern Railway houses are also being permitted at the same station by the Directorate of States, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, the nodal Ministry for such purposes.

(d) Number of quarters allotted to officers, both gazetted and non-gazetted, during the last two years is as under:-

	1995	1996
Officers	6	2
Staff	36	5
Total	42	7

(e) Pool balancing is done periodically by Railway Board and Northern Railway. Currently 12 Houses are in excess on Railway Board side. Steps are being taken to balance the same. Further construction of additional houses in Railway Board pool has been approved.

The numbers of quarters allotted on out of turn consideration is already very minimal and given in exceptional cases only.

Facilities to Railway Employees

2928. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether railway employees are getting the same pay scales and other allowances as other Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railway employees are entitled to railway passes anywhere in India, many times a year;

(d) if so, whether the facilities of LTC is stopped for all other retired Central Government employees but it is continued for retired railway personnel, though in a smaller scale;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to review this decision and issue concession like this to all retired Central Government employees; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The pay scales allowed to railway employees are as per the recommendations made by the successive pay Commissions, as accepted by the Government. The allowances admissible to railway employees are also based on the orders issued by the nodal Ministries *viz.* Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

(c) As per the convention existing in the railway systems the worldover, employees serving on Indian Railways are eligible for privilege passes. At present, they are eligible for :-

Category	No. of privilege passes	No. of privilege Ticket Orders
Group A & B	6 sets per year	4 sets per year
Group C & D	(a) 1 set per year upto the 5th year of railway service.	-do-
	(b) 3 sets per year after 5 years of railway service.	-do-

(d) The retired railway employees are entitled for post-retirement complimentary passes on the basis of length of service rendered by them to the railways.

(e) and (f). In so far as Central Government employees are concerned, travel concession facilities are at present available only to serving personnel for being availed during leave at specified scales. These

have been designed to enable the employees to visit their home town for meeting family obligations while in service. Travel facilities for visiting other places are also provided to serving personnel on a reduced scale to give them an opportunity to visit and see other regions of the country so that it may help thme in widening their knowledge and in discharging their duties as public servants. These considerations are not attracted in the case of pensioners and they cannot be considered at par with serving employees for extension of travel concession facilities.

Decline in Industrial Gowth in Steel Plant

2929. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "SAIL sits over million tonne inventory" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" October 28, 1996;

(b) if so, whether slowdown in the industrial growth has affected the steel plants in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to accelerate the industrial growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Demand for steel depends on interplay of a number of factors such as availability of funds with consumers, cost of credit, competition from domestic sources as well as imports, overall industrial growth etc. The aggregate impact of such factors varies from unit to unit.

As per the latest Index of Industrial Production releasd by the C.S.O., the overall sectoral growth of Industrial Production in April-July, 1996-97 was 9.3% as compared to 12.3% in the corresponding period of last year. The deceleration in the industrial growth is confined to a few sectors particularly the Crude Petroleum, Fertilizer and Power Generation. Sector specific Strategies have been initiated to remove constraints in underperforming sectors. Adequate credit with softened interest rates assured to industries through the recently announced busy season credit policy are providing further impetus to growth.

[Translation]

South African Investments in Steel Production

2930. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have requested the Government of South Africa to make investments in steel production;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the terms and conditions of investment alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the South African Government in this regard?

THE MEINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The Ministry of Steel have not made any request to the Government of South Africa o make any investment in steel production.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Promotion from Asstt. Manager to Dy. Manager

2931. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 6 years period for promotion from Asstt. Manager to Dy. Manager viz. 10/12 grade to 13/14 grade in the Indian Airlines in the case of general category and 5 years for the reserve category has been reduced to 4 years for both the categories;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the reserved category employees have been pressing for one year's relaxation as given to them previously and a few meetings with the administration were held by the representatives of the reserved category to resolve the issue; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since the qualifying period has been reduced from 6 years to 4 years, uniformally in respect of all the categories of Officers, it was not considered necessary to extend any further relaxation.

Magnesite in Panthal-Udhampur

2932. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge stocks Magnesite mineral have been discovered in Panthal-Udhampur area of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken for exploitation of this mineral;

(d) whether the task was entrusted to a company of Hyderabad;

(e) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;